

The Critical Issue

Everyone goes to school, or has at least gone to school in their lifetime. To most of us, we know the general common system of 180 days of school, and the 3 month summer break that follows. All of a sudden, in the 1950's, a huge "Baby Boom" began causing overcrowding in schools and our communities did not know what to make of the issue. To solve this problem, the public created a system of schooling where students attend school for a whole year (not including summer break). The debate over year round schooling has been known as unfair to students, but at the same time, is thought of as an advantage for students, families and school districts. One example of a court case that still remains in effect is the Wake County Schools case that is currently deciding whether to start year round schooling, or keep the system they have. The debate over this decision has been in action for a long time. Although parents and students believe that year round schooling should not be established, the National Association for Year Round Education states that yearly school makes a positive impact on student's overall knowledge. Which side do every day individuals agree with?

Stressful School

While other kids and teenagers are outside having a good time in the warm weather, year round school students are in a classroom feeling like they should also be enjoying the sun, like their

friends. "When you're sitting in a classroom knowing people outside in different school are having more fun in summer must feel bad," says a student from California that attends year round school. This creates stress for students because they are required to study for tests and do homework, while others are done with school and relaxing. Students like their summers and have the same amount of pressure on them during the summer as they do during an average person's school year if they have year round schools. According to angry parents about the issue, year round schools change the amount of "fun" that is included in their children's lives. School replaces the fun with stress, pressure and the constant worry about holding good grades.



Increase in Knowledge

Even though year round schooling can be a disadvantage for students and parents, it does provide some huge advantages to students. One convenience includes an increase in students' knowledge, which introduces a growth in math facts, spelling and becoming less forgetful. The National

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Comment [1]: Uses headings to organize information

Gianna Taylor 6/21/14 5:10 PM

Comment [2]: Tries to hook reader in with a statement that is highly relatable

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Comment [5]: This quote could be more effective if the reader knew where it came from and in what context it was said.

Gianna Taylor 6/21/14 5:12 PM

Comment [6]: The writer begins to analyze the evidence, but since there wasn't much to the evidence itself, there isn't much to analyze.

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Comment [3]: Gives background information on the issue

Gianna Taylor 6/21/14 5:13 PM

Comment [7]: From what source are these "angry parents"?

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Comment [4]: Gives both sides' perspectives on the issue

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Comment [8]: Transition words signal a contrast and build from the previous idea.

Association of Year Round Education proves that year round schooling has a positive effect on students' education and shows an achievement in their learning. YRE proponents say that students tend to forget too much of what they have learned in the past year during their summer breaks, and it takes too long to regain that knowledge for the upcoming school year. To solve this problem, year round schools have come up with the solution of taking around 15 day breaks scattered over the year instead of the 3 month summer breaks to relieve overcrowding. The only problem with this system is that students, along with 66% of the population in the country, simply feel as though they are attending summer school, and believe that it is an interference with their family vacations.

decided to choose is directly up to the people.

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Comment [11]: The writer attempts to make some broad statements about the issue's impact on society, but her understanding of how these decisions are made is limited.

Should Year Round Public Schools be put Into Action?

In conclusion, the everlasting argument over year round schooling is a growing issue. On one hand, year round schooling shouldn't be allowed because it is unfair to students, but on the other hand, it should be allowed because it encourages more education to teachers and students. This is a growing issue because this topic is so controversial and everyone has their different beliefs about what "has to be done" for the good of their children. Because of all these differing opinions, the public is undecided whether or not to make this an official decision for all states in the US. Whichever side the population

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Comment [9]: This seems like good information, but the reader does not know if it's reliable because there is no citation.

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Comment [10]: While this topic definitely lends itself to persuasive writing, this writer was careful to try and present each side equally, which was the task in the informational writing unit.

Element	Advanced	On-Target	Novice
Content	<p>The writer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artfully presents the issue background, perspectives, key questions, and key terms in the introductory paragraph(s). Has crafted a central idea that concerns 2-3 of the most pressing questions regarding the critical issue. Thoughtfully presents an abundance of supporting details highly relevant to the central idea in the form of facts, quotations, examples, and statistics. Always carefully analyzes supporting details to explain how they answer key questions, define a perspective, and contrast with the opposing perspective. Consistently compares and contrasts the two perspectives on the critical issue using signal words and phrases. Uses the concluding paragraph to briefly summarize the two perspectives, to explain why this issue is so critical to society, and to discuss what the future debate over this issue might involve. 	<p>The writer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents the issue background, perspectives, key questions, and key terms in the introductory paragraph(s). Has crafted a central idea that concerns 1-2 of the most pressing questions regarding the critical issue. Presents supporting details highly relevant to the central idea in the form of facts, quotations, examples, and statistics. Often analyzes supporting details to explain how they answer key questions, define a perspective, and contrast with the opposing perspective. Often compares and contrasts the two perspectives on the critical issue using signal words and phrases. Uses the concluding paragraph to briefly summarize the two perspectives and explain why this issue is so critical to society. 	<p>The writer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents the issue background, perspectives, key questions, and key terms, but not all these crucial elements. Has crafted a central idea that does not concern key questions about the critical issue or chosen perspectives. Presents minimal supporting details relevant to the central idea in the form of facts, quotations, examples, and statistics. Occasionally or never analyzes supporting details to explain how they answer key questions, define a perspective, and contrast with the opposing perspective. Rarely or never compares and contrasts the two perspectives on the critical issue using signal words and phrases. Uses the concluding paragraph only to summarize what has already been explored in the essay.
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chosen structure is the most effective means of conveying/supporting the controlling. Headings and sub-headings are effective titles and assist the reader in understanding how information is organized. The use of signal words and phrases create a logical flow between sentences and paragraphs. Each paragraph has a clear central idea that is presented in the topic sentence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chosen structure is an effective means of conveying/supporting the controlling idea. Headings and sub-headings are effective titles and often assist the reader in understanding how information is organized. The use of signal words and phrases usually create a logical flow between sentences and paragraphs. Most paragraphs have a clear central idea that is presented in the topic sentence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chosen structure is not the most effective means of conveying/supporting the controlling idea; or there is no clear structure to the essay. Headings and sub-headings create confusion for the reader about how information is organized. Signal words and phrases are rarely or never used to create a logical flow between sentences and paragraphs. Few paragraphs have a clear central idea that is presented in the topic sentence.
Style & Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing voice is engaging and consistently appropriate for the intended audience. The word choice is specific to the chosen topic. Sentence structures are varied and complex. The essay contains no errors in spelling or punctuation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing voice is engaging and usually appropriate for the intended audience. The word choice is somewhat specific to the chosen topic. Sentence structures are often varied and sometimes complex. The essay contains minimal spelling and punctuation errors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing voice is not engaging or is not appropriate for the intended audience. The word choice is not specific to the chosen topic. Sentence structures are not varied or complex. The essay contains multiple spelling or punctuation errors.
Process Checklist	<p>The writer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brainstormed to discover multiple topics and selected one suited to the writing task. Researched to explore and refine his/her topic choice. Drafted to organize and analyze information. Revised his/her draft to achieve greater coherency and clarity. Edited for clarity and an error-free essay. 		

Teacher Comment:

This unit asked students to extend the skills they learned in the argument paragraph unit and literary essay unit in terms of using evidence to support an idea. In this unit, students needed to compare and contrast the perspectives on an issue without making an argument either way. This writer does a great job of staying objective and giving each side of the issue equal treatment.

Future instruction with this writer would include citing sources so that the reader knows where the information came from and analyzing why the evidence is important and how it supports the central idea.

